

## Veterans Outreach Project Meeting Minutes

July 25, 2011

### Attendees

Dan Bernhardt	Program Manager	Veterans Employment
Tina Whiting	Veterans Intensive Services Coordinator	MT DLI WSD JSOB
Joe Foster	Administrator	MT Veterans Affairs
Scott Smith	DOMS – MTNG	DMAMT
Jackie Girard	State Director	CNCS
Gary Wright	Bureau Chief	MT. DLI
Brenda York	Director	Montana State University
Lester Williams	Regional Administrator -Dallas	VETS
Byron Erickson	DVET	DOL/VETS
Jovita Martinez	VPS	DOL/VETS
Sheena Wilson	Chief of Staff	Governor's Office
Lesa Evars	Indian Affairs Director	Governor's Office
Allison Paul	Executive Director	Montana Legal Services Association
Michelle Hauer	Advocacy Coordinator	Montana Legal Services Association
Tiffany David	Bureau Chief	MT DLI
Jim Auer	Grants Coordinator	Governor's OCS
Jan Lombardi	Executive Director	Governor's OCS
Amit Magdieli	Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor	U.S. Department of Labor
Bob Logue	RSVP Director in Jefferson & Clallam Counties	OlyCAP

### Minutes

Agenda	Discussion	Action Items
<b>10:00 Introduction</b>	Jan Lombardi – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purpose of this meeting               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bring together organizations catering to veterans to discuss an volunteer based outreach project</li> <li>○ Determine the feasibility of the project</li> <li>○ Identify potential challenges</li> <li>○ Form a smaller working group to move forward</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>10:10 Washington State Model</b>	Bob Logue – RSVP Director foe Jefferson & Clallum Counties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussed the Washington State veterans outreach project</li> <li>• Call list for veterans received from Worksource division               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 15,000 veterans were included in the call list</li> <li>○ Volunteers signed a confidentiality agreement with Olympic Community</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<p>Action Programs (OLICAP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A call list was distributed to each volunteer</li> <li>○ 90% of feedback from veterans was positive             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 92% requested additional information on available programs</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Byron Erickson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Washington project was not entirely volunteer based</li> <li>• Funding was available to use staff to make calls</li> <li>• This funding source is not available in Montana</li> </ul>	
<p><b>10:45 Current Montana Outreach Efforts</b></p>	<p>Tina Whiting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Offices with extended hours specifically for Veterans Services; Great Falls and Glendive</li> <li>• Participants and leaders in Veteran Service Provider meetings in 7 communities in the state.</li> <li>• Present at Yellow Ribbon Events throughout the state.</li> <li>• Key players or organizers of Homeless Veteran Stand Downs in the state. Every stand down has at the very least two job service staff to reach out to veterans. Most recently, job service is providing the Disability Resource Coordinator at these events.</li> <li>• Conduct outreach in smaller communities; Sidney, Red Lodge, Round Up, Hardin and we are looking to expand into Richey and Circle.</li> </ul> <p>Scott Smith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussed Project Yellow Ribbon             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gradual re-integration tool for veterans</li> <li>○ Brings together resources covering a wide array of services</li> <li>○ Reaches out to all veterans regardless of branch of service</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Joe Foster</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach efforts of Veterans Administration</li> <li>• Participation in Stand Down Events, Yellow Ribbon and TAP program</li> <li>• TAP – Transition Assistance Program             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Assisting soldiers in transitioning into civilian life                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transitioning to a more individual approach</li> <li>▪ Currently not a required program</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Jackie Girard</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RSVP (Retired Senior volunteer Persons) currently serving veterans in a variety of capacities</li> <li>• Located in communities throughout the state including Eastern Montana</li> <li>• Many RSVP volunteers are veterans</li> <li>• Have one AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteer in Service to America) serving with Workforce Services in Sidney, capacity is very similar to the Washington program</li> </ul> <p>Allison Paul</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Montana Legal Services is continuing to try to improve outreach to veterans, target group is low income</li> <li>• Participation in Stand Down events</li> <li>• Often serve as a central location where individuals will seek assistance             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Work to collect resources on a variety of issues facing low income individuals</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Brenda York</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work to outreach to veterans though the college. 900 service members currently enrolled</li> <li>• Opening a veterans resource center August 22<sup>nd</sup></li> <li>• Work with veterans on math, writing and computer skills. Provided peer to peer mentoring</li> </ul> <p>Joe Foster</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 prominent Veterans Service Organizations in the state American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America, Disabled American Veterans             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ May be a source of information for reaching out to veterans</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Byron Erickson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tribal Summit Aug. 18 - Developing a resource booklet for tribal veterans</li> <li>• Veterans job fair on August 13<sup>th</sup></li> </ul>	
<p><b>11:00</b> Brief Discussion Benefits/Challenges Pilot Decision Next Steps</p>	<p>Jan Lombardi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreement to move forward.</li> <li>• Identify challenges and opportunities</li> </ul> <p>Data: Gary Wright</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MWorks database lists all veterans who have contacted DLI in any capacity             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Confidentiality laws in Montana do not allow the distribution of this list to volunteers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Follow up:</p> <p>Gary Wright</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine if confidentiality agreement is sufficient to release MWorks data to volunteers</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Volunteers signing a confidentiality agreement may make a difference, will check with legal department</li> <li>○ MWorks data can be made available to staff in WSD offices</li> <li>● Jackie Girard             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ National Service volunteers sign an agreement to follow all rules of the host organization</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Scott Smith             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A specific demographic for target veterans needs to be developed</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Possible sources of alternative veterans contact data             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Stand down Event contact lists</li> <li>○ Veteran Service Organizations</li> <li>○ Attachment to the 214 exit form authorizing the sharing of contact information</li> <li>○ Possible option to offer veterans work study to contribute to the program</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Resource Guides Sources for development of resource guides             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Community management teams in Workforce Services Division offices</li> <li>○ Veteran Service Organization networks/regional partnerships</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Lester Williams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A national website is planned for launch on Veteran's Day, massive list of resource</li> </ul> <p>Jan Lombardi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Distribution of efforts             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Identify the presence of organizations regionally let them focus on their own region</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Committee to move forward on this project</li> <li>● Byron Erickson, Joe Foster, Jackie Girard, Tina Whiting, Dan Bernhardt, Allison Paul, Michelle Hauer, representative from DPHHS and Housing</li> </ul>	<p>Jim Auer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Involvement of the VA</li> <li>● Development of a resource for sharing information</li> <li>● Convene workgroup</li> <li>● Contact Housing and DPHHS</li> </ul> <p>Jackie Girard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Get a copy of the veterans resource guide developed in Washington State</li> </ul> <p>Workgroup</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Continue planning</li> </ul>
<p><b>11:45 Meeting adjournment</b></p>		